

## Planning Projects

Open Space Plan- Lincoln County has teamed with Resources Concepts and Winston Associates to develop a plan for parks trails and open space in Lincoln County. The focus of this plan is on the proposed land disposals around our communities. This plan will enable residents to provide input on how each town grows and what important community features need to be protected for future generations. For additional information please visit <http://www.lccommunitylands.org/> .

Public Lands Plan- Lincoln County is comprised of approximately 97% public lands which are managed by the Bureau of Land Management, the US Fish and Wildlife Service or the Department of Defense. Activities on public lands have the potential to impact to the health of the county in a variety ways. Nevada counties can benefit from a framework which allows a local voice in federal land management through the adoption and update of their public land plan. A local citizens committee is currently updating its 1997 plan with assistance from Nevada's public land planner, Skip Canfield. As the county reviews development projects on public lands through the special use permit process a strong public land plan with clear policies are vital in addressing the concerns of the county and its proximity and reliance on these lands. Public meetings are held the last Wednesday of each month at the depot in Caliente. <http://lands.nv.gov/>

Fiscal Impact Studies- The county has contracted with Tischler-Bise, A nationwide firm that specializes in identifying impacts to government services and facilities from land development projects. The county's current master plan states that new development projects must "pay their way" and not burden current taxpayers. Lincoln County has already entered into three development agreements with the potential for 150,000 new residential units in the Coyote Springs and Toquop areas. The fiscal studies will provide the county with the financial understanding of the costs involved in providing required services over the long term and revenues that will be generated from the development. To address the shortcomings the County will be able to impose specific fees and assessments to cover any shortfalls that may occur. These studies will provide the County with a better understanding of its options to ensure new development pays its way.

Strategic Plan- With the assistance of the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Service county planning staff are working with elected officials in mapping its future by identifying its core values, preferred outcomes and action steps to accomplish the plan. County commissioners are faced with increasingly difficult decisions about future growth, conducting county business and living within its fiscal means. This plan will help direct the energies of the Board to improve its decision making capabilities and identify key steps to maintain the character of the County while improving its fiscal health.

Capital Improvement Plan- Lincoln County is updating its Capital Improvement Program. This document outlines existing county facilities, capital outlay revenues and future capital facility needs. Its examines the county resources available to improve or construct new facilities to serve the population. Not only is the CIP required by state law it is also required for many grants to improve public facilities. Consider the CIP a priority list similar to a home budget whereby one considers the need to function as a household such as new roof on the house or an expansion for an expected child. The County's last CIP was conducted in 2001 and did not consider any large development projects.